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was affected in his pocket by this transaction, he retracted what he had said with perfect facility. In short, he was constantly saying, "The smallest favors thankfully received." He was a sort of sublimated Skimpole, with infinitely more humor than that very tiresome personage.

The principal works of Scarron are the "Typhon," the "Roman Comique," and "Virgile Travesti," of which the last was by far the most popular. These works, and all his smaller compositions, are characterized by a fantastic style, a total disregard of the proper relations of objects, and a continual surprise of the imagination by unexpected turns. But the writings of Scarron, however entertaining they may have been to those who read them as they came fresh from his pen, are far less interesting to us than the events of his extraordinary life. That nothing might be wanting to the eccentricity of his career, the miserable and helpless wreck was married to Mlle. d'Aubigné, the prudent companion of Louis XIV. and the wife of his latter years. Scarron died as he had lived. In his last illness, when he was attacked by a terrible hiccough, which racked his exhausted frame almost beyond endurance, he declared in the first interval of relief, "If I recover, I will write a tremendous satire upon the hiccough." He said to the friends who wept around his death-bed, "My children, you will never weep as much as I have made you laugh."

ART. X. — *Memoirs, Speeches, and Writings of* ROBERT RANTOUL, JR. Edited by LUTHER HAMILTON. Boston: John P. Jewett & Co. 1854. 8vo. pp. 864.

THE materials of this bulky volume are put together in an unusual and somewhat unskilful manner. We expected to find in it a memoir of the person to whom it relates, followed by a collection of his speeches and writings, arranged either chronologically or in the order of their topics. But the editor has preferred to give us a long and rather cumbrous and dull

essay on the character and political services of Mr. Rantoul, in which are inserted, here and there, his speeches, essays, and other literary productions, without the slightest regard to their dates, and yet not altogether at random, as they serve to illustrate the diffuse commentary in which they are imbedded. This seems to us an inversion of the natural order of things. The commentary is usually written and arranged to illustrate the text; here, the text is arranged to illustrate the commentary. One of Mr. Rantoul's legal arguments, delivered in April, 1852, on a point of constitutional law, is inserted in the second chapter of the book, because the editor happens there to be considering him as a lawyer; while several other speeches on precisely the same topic, and delivered within the same year, are postponed to the ninth and tenth chapters, because there the editor is regarding him as he appeared in Congress and before public meetings of his constituents. An occurrence in the earlier part of his political life is quite as likely to be treated of at the end of the book as at its beginning. Of course, this odd arrangement, or want of arrangement, subjects every one who reads or consults the book to considerable inconvenience. If he is in search of the record of some event in Mr. Rantoul's career, as the work has no index except a very imperfect one of the speeches and essays, he may be obliged to wander an hour in this wilderness of 864 pages before he can find it; and even after he has unearthed one passage about it, he cannot be sure, till he has turned over every other page in the volume, that it does not come up for a second and more elaborate consideration elsewhere.

Inconvenient as this arrangement is, however, we have less cause to complain of it, as applied to Mr. Rantoul's writings, than we should have in almost any other case that has come within our knowledge. Our interest in him arises rather from what he was, than from what he accomplished; we look rather to the history of his mind and the character of his opinions, than to the history of his outward acts. And the arrangement of the contents of this book is not ill calculated to satisfy a curiosity of this sort. It gives us a record of his life, by considering in succession the great enterprises to which he de-

voted himself, following each with great earnestness and pertinacity, and finding satisfaction for his ardent temperament more in the eagerness of the pursuit than in the attainment of its object. He united two characters, which are not often found together, at least in this country; he was at the same time an ardent politician and an independent thinker. He was devoted to his party, and labored zealously for its advancement; but he often sacrificed his own interests with that party, by laboring with equal zeal for other objects, which his political associates either disapproved of, or held in light esteem. We borrow a faithful portraiture of him in this respect from a letter, inserted in this volume, written by one who knew and esteemed him, without sharing many of his political opinions.

“He was one of those politicians, rare in any land, hardly to be spoken of in the plural number in America, who sacrifice their ambition to their ideas. Conscious, as he must have been, of great powers, and evidently ambitious of high position, he became a Democrat in *Massachusetts*, where his party was in a hopeless minority, and when to favor free trade and oppose banks was looked upon as little short of insanity. Having thus cut himself off from all but strict party support, he alienated his political friends by a frank advocacy of the temperance cause, which, it is not unjust to say, has never been a favorite with the Democratic party here. Plainly told, by its leaders in 1838, that, if he supported the ‘fifteen-gallon’ law, he did it at his peril, he neither relented nor kept silent, but by his zeal provoked an opposition so malignant and undying, that, in every emergency afterward, to the very last year of his life, it made a point of thwarting him, and was often able, by the command of a few hundred votes, to defeat his election.

“There was one element of *Massachusetts* favor left which a *prudent* politician would have been careful to secure,—the good opinion of the orthodox sects. These, again, Mr. Rantoul alienated, by his untiring advocacy of the abolition of capital punishment. They had looked coldly and with some suspicion on his liberal views while a member of the Board of Education; and any common politician, however desirous to ameliorate penal legislation, would have contented himself with one frank expression of his feelings, and then have dropped the unwelcome subject. But Mr. Rantoul incurred the hostility of the strongest and most unforgiving of sects, by his unwavering, enthusiastic, outspoken opposition to the gallows; whether in the legislature or out of it; be-

fore legislative committees; through the press and in conventions,—often making opportunities where he did not find them. . . .

“He never made hollow pledges to gain votes, and when he had once uttered a sentiment or made a pledge, no one thought it necessary to watch him, certain that he would more than fulfil his promise, and that, in the position he had taken, or in advance of it, you would be sure to find him, no matter how long your absence. In our political arena these are rare merits.” — pp. 855, 856.

The first chapter of this volume, not written by the editor, but by a relative of Mr. Rantoul, is to us the most interesting portion of the book. It carries the sketch of his life and character only up to the period of his graduation at college; but it is written with much taste and discrimination, and brings out very clearly the early manifestations of his peculiar character. His life was not a long one, and the few incidents in it may be very quickly told.

Robert Rantoul, Jr. was born in Beverly, in this State, on the 5th of August, 1805. He seems to have inherited from his mother an ingenuous disposition, a warm and open heart, a sincere reverence for the truth, and great frankness in the expression of his opinions. These traits were conspicuously displayed in the course of his education, and were characteristic of him throughout his subsequent career. He was trained at school by a teacher who encouraged him to think for himself; and he unconsciously formed the habit, which all his later experience tended to strengthen, of acting upon his own convictions, with very little deference to the opinions of those around him, however qualified they might seem, by age, station, or relationship, to guide his conduct. He was an amiable, but could not have been a docile pupil. After finishing his preparatory studies at Phillips Academy, Andover, he entered the Freshman class at Harvard College in 1822, and was graduated in due course, though without distinction as a scholar, four years afterwards. Both at school and college, though an indefatigable student, he took little rank in his class, because he persisted in studying by himself the subjects in which he was interested, and paying little attention to the regular exercises of the place. Thus his training was irregular, but his acquisitions were large and varied. His

temperament was ardent, and his thirst for knowledge so great that he accumulated stores of information upon subjects which, to young men, have usually little interest. He paid considerable attention to the languages of Continental Europe, and studied the mediæval history of France, and the leading writers on the science of government and legislation. Warm and earnest in his convictions, his political creed was already fully formed, and, as might have been expected, it differed widely from that of his nearest friends and associates. Because his opinions did not coincide with those of the majority, he clung to them with the stronger attachment, and defended them with an earnestness that came near to vehemence. Thus, to persons who did not know him intimately, he might have appeared wilful and wrong-headed; but this impression was removed from those who were admitted to his privacy, and who recognized in him great sweetness of disposition, an unselfish heart, and peculiar delicacy as well as strength of feeling. The character which might seem too vehement and overbearing in public business took on an aspect of almost feminine gentleness at his own fireside. Perhaps this union of affectionateness in private life with very decided opinions and great warmth as well as pertinacity of purpose, is more frequent than people usually imagine; strength of feeling and ardor of temperament lie at the foundation of both. But in the one case, these qualities are manifested quietly, because they have their appropriate food and meet with no impediment; in the other, they are fretted by opposition, and concentrated by obstacles till they gather strength to burst through them.

After leaving college, Mr. Rantoul adopted the profession of the law, which he studied in Salem, and practised for some years in Gloucester, and afterwards in Boston. He was a successful, though not an eminent lawyer, for his heart was devoted to politics, and a case in court did not call forth all his powers unless it turned upon some political principle. He was, also, too independent in forming his opinions, and too frank in the expression of them, to obtain rapid success even in his chosen career. In our democratic country, he who aspires to lead the people must begin by manifesting a dis-

position to follow them very implicitly. But the native vigor of Mr. Rantoul's understanding and the strength of his character forced their way through all obstacles. He held for a very brief period a seat in the Senate of the United States, and was regularly elected, in 1851, a representative of his native district in Congress. Few men have qualified themselves for the vocation of a legislator more carefully than he did, by minute and extensive study of public affairs. There may have been traces of one serious defect in his method of investigation,—that of studying less as an inquirer after new truth, than as a searcher for new arguments and facts wherewith to sustain his previously formed opinions. This is an error which quick and earnest minds are peculiarly liable to commit; they first choose their side from impulse, and afterwards resort to argument to strengthen their position. The politician who attaches himself firmly to a party can hardly avoid falling into this blunder, and thus sacrificing his mental integrity to his political consistency. It was not, however, as an earnest partisan, but as a quick and independent thinker, that Mr. Rantoul was sometimes led to erroneous conclusions. As we have seen, the ties of party could not restrain his movements; he never sacrificed his convictions, but he sometimes formed them too rashly, and then adhered to them with the chivalrous feeling that induces the sailor to nail his colors to the mast.

Mr. Rantoul's career in Congress was a short one. He had had opportunity to show his talents as a ready and formidable debater, but not to produce his store of carefully acquired information upon subjects in which he was specially interested, when he was struck by the disease that carried him off, at the age of forty-seven. The volume before us, therefore, is only the record of what he had done before his faculties had reached their highest stage of development. If he had edited it himself, he would doubtless have omitted a good deal which has been inserted in it by the partiality of the compiler and the affection of friends, anxious to preserve even the slightest memorials of one who was so much beloved. Still, it is the honorable monument of a fine understanding, great industry, and lofty aims. Mr. Rantoul was

not merely a lawyer and a politician. He took comprehensive views of the great interests of mankind, and devoted himself with singular ardor and perseverance to furthering the enterprises upon which the amelioration of society depends.

Foremost among these is the great cause of popular education, in promoting which Mr. Rantoul was an early and efficient laborer. Soon after he left college, he projected what is believed to have been the first Lyceum that was established in New England. He was a member for six years of the first Board of Education in Massachusetts, created by law in 1836; and he contributed largely, by his advice and his pen, to the extraordinary success of its earliest measures. An elaborate article contributed by him to this journal, in 1838, shows how long he had meditated upon this subject, how much information he had collected respecting it, and how judicious were his views as to the machinery of public instruction and the means of keeping it in action. His co-operation in this work was very important, as he was a virtual representative of one of the leading parties in the State, and the success of the project depended in a great degree on all parties and sects being enlisted in its support. He wrote an introductory essay for "The School Library," a series of works published under the sanction of the Board; and his opening discourse, delivered before the American Institute of Instruction in 1839, and republished in this volume, is an able and eloquent exposition of the advantages to be expected from a well-regulated system of common schools. On the whole, his services in this cause will be remembered and held in honor, long after most of the causes of dispute which gave the tone to his political labors have passed into oblivion.

Another national concern in which he was deeply interested, was the establishment of an extensive system of internal improvements. On this subject, he abandoned the traditional policy of his political associates, and therefore thought it necessary to defend his opinions with the largest possible array of facts and arguments. The most elaborate speech that he delivered in Congress was "on the interests of the old States in Western avenues of intercourse." In this ar-

gument, as well as in two or three speeches upon the banking system, delivered in the Legislature of Massachusetts, we find an imposing and pertinent array of well-digested statistics, and a clear, though not very comprehensive, grasp of the leading principles of what may be called the English theory of Political Economy. That this theory needs to be materially modified before it can be applied to the circumstances and the institutions of the people of this country, is a truth which Mr. Rantoul may have recognized, but he did not, to any great extent, act upon it. His argument upon the subject of internal improvements is able and eloquent; that upon banks is ingenious and plausible, but it fails to command our assent, and has been in a certain degree refuted by larger experience. Neither as a speaker nor as a writer did Mr. Rantoul pay any special attention to the garb of his thoughts; he was too earnest in the pursuit of his object, to take much notice of his own steps. Had he lived to edit his own works, he might have retrenched many superfluities, and corrected some inaccuracies, of expression. But he was always perspicuous, forcible, and thoroughly in earnest. These qualities, united with a fine person, an expressive countenance, and a not ungraceful delivery, always commanded the attention and respect of his audience.

The early death of such a man is a loss, not only to his immediate friends and the political circle to which he belonged, but to his native State and the Union at large. In his principles and aims, he belonged to the higher and better class of our leading politicians,—to those who aspire to become the leaders, rather than the slavish followers, of the people. What he believed he earnestly inculcated, whatever might be its effects upon the interests of his party or upon his own advancement. If his life had been prolonged, he would probably have attained high distinction in the national councils; cut off prematurely, as he was, he has still left enough to sustain the pride of his friends, and merit the gratitude of his countrymen.

We ought not to close without taking a brief extract from the volume before us, which may serve to illustrate Mr. Rantoul's style of thought and expression. The following is an

admirable address, which he wrote, to the "Workingmen" of the United States, and which was published in the "Workingmen's Library." He has been speaking of the various claims which the persons whom he addresses may rightfully set up, and he now comes to consider their right to respect.

"The *kinds* of respect we may claim, the effects we may expect to result from it, are either of a public or a private nature. I. *Private*. The respect which is shown in social intercourse is grateful to him that receives it, and the denial of it, where it is expected, is sometimes exceedingly galling. We have a right to associate with those whose company is agreeable to us. Others have also the same right to associate only with such company as is agreeable to them. Upon the principle of equal rights, therefore, no association should take place which is not perfectly agreeable to both parties: and this rule being admitted and acted on, this difficult and sometimes embarrassing subject will easily regulate itself. I may be as good and as wise and as polite withal, as another man, yet if my company is unpleasant to him, it does not become me to thrust myself upon him. His time and presence are his own, not to be intruded on by any man, just as my time and presence are my own, and sacred from all intrusion. It is not the amount of intelligence or the degree of worth that leads particular sets of persons into each other's society: it is identity of pursuits or similarity of tastes, feelings, and manners, that naturally draws them together. If an artist seeks the company of a brother artist, he does not intend thereby any thing derogatory to the parson of the parish. If a broker falls into conversation with a broker, it is not because he has less respect for the opinions of the lawyer, but because two persons of the same calling can find topics at once in which they feel a common interest. If students resort to each other's company, it is not that they mean to reflect upon the merchant, but because so many of his interests are unintelligible to them, and so many of their notions are Greek to him. Forced association is any thing rather than pleasant or profitable. These extreme instances sufficiently illustrate the general principle, that it is congeniality of tastes and feelings by which association must be regulated: they show also, that this principle exists in human nature, and is not an artificial arrangement of society, as some have supposed: that it is therefore unalterable, and need not be a subject of regret or complaint any more than the law of gravitation. Mistakes no doubt will occur in the application of this principle, but of all weak and puerile repinings, the weakest and most childish for a man to indulge would seem to be mortification and grief because we are not

invited into this or that set. If our tastes, feelings, and manners are congenial to theirs, so soon as that fact is discovered, no doubt we shall be ; if they are not thus congenial, it is more for our comfort, as well as theirs, that we should not be. Whether we are or are not, should be of little moment. There are more sets than one in the world, in which intelligent and honest people are to be met with, and we shall feel much more at our ease where our presence is esteemed as a favor, than where the propriety of our company is looked upon as in the least degree equivocal. It is no great hardship, I say, and every sensible man will admit it, not to be invited into a new set quite so soon as we think our accomplishments deserve ; but if, by the power of public opinion, the force of ridicule, or by any other means, a new set attempt to thrust themselves into our society, our right of choosing our own associates is impudently invaded, and then indeed we have serious ground of complaint. But though we have a right to choose our own associates, and are therefore bound in duty not to intrude on others, yet whenever business or accident brings us into intercourse with others, we have a right to be treated with all the deference which it becomes equals to show each other. Not only our interests but our feelings should be respected, and the best way to secure the respect we deserve is invariably to show to others all the respect which they deserve. We have a right, also, to all the influence which our virtues and talents will enable us to exercise. This our just share of influence we should be careful to preserve by making a wise use of it, the neglect of this precaution being the fault by which our brethren in other countries have lost it, as often as fortunate circumstances have put them in possession of it. We should jealously guard this right, and suffer neither wealth nor poverty to have any more than their due and natural share of influence. An aristocracy of wealth is impossible in a country where the property of an intestate father is divided equally among his children. An aristocracy of poverty is quite as impossible, and equally undesirable. In Catholic countries, voluntary poverty has sometimes been held in honor, and its professors have arrived at great influence in the state. A working-men's party regard poverty as an evil to be avoided, and though, when involuntary, it implies no disgrace, for no man can be blamed for what he cannot help, yet when voluntary it is always disgraceful. This being the case, if wealth alone is no recommendation, so neither is poverty ; and if poverty alone should not diminish the respect paid to honor, virtue, and talents, so neither should wealth. The envy, therefore, which makes a mean spirit hate another's success, even though allied to shining merit, is as unbecoming as the servile self-abasement which worships at the altar of Mammon. Let us banish from our

minds both these ignoble prejudices, and bestow respect wherever we recognize merit. Let us pay most deference where we meet most desert, and allow most influence to those who use it best." — pp. 245 – 247.

ART. XI. — CRITICAL NOTICES.

1. — *A Gross Literary Fraud Exposed; relating to the Publication of Worcester's Dictionary in London.* Boston: Jenks, Hickling, & Swan. 1853. 8vo. pp. 24.

THE want of an international copyright law between England and America has exposed the authors and the purchasers of books in both these countries to many gross frauds, of which the one exposed in this pamphlet is the most flagitious that has fallen under our notice. We cannot explain the nature of it better than by *supposing a case*, in which all the circumstances shall be the same, though the names of the parties are changed, and their residences transferred, so as to shift the locality of the fraud from one country to the other.

Mutato nomine de te fabula narratur.

Sir James Mackintosh and Mr. T. B. Macaulay have both written a history of the reign of James II. of England, the work of the former being, however, an imperfect and posthumous publication, which appeared some years before Mr. Macaulay's issued from the press. Now let us suppose that some envious and malignant critic — say Mr. Croker, in the *Quarterly Review* — had falsely charged Mr. Macaulay with borrowing his materials very freely from Mackintosh, and making no acknowledgment of the debt. Suppose further, that Macaulay immediately proved, by unquestionable evidence, that this charge was not only groundless, but absurd, and also declared, in the preface to his book, that he had not borrowed a statement, or even a single word, from the work which he had been accused of using so unfairly. Some worthy American bookseller, willing to turn a penny by any means, and to exemplify the proverbially dishonest and grasping disposition of his countrymen, purchases in England a complete set of the stereotype plates of Macaulay's History, and forthwith issues an edition of it in Boston, with the following title: — "*A History of England under James II., compiled*